

30-8-1

Rural District of Bridgwater

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1962

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRIDGWATER

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1962

Chairman:

MR. F.W. MOVERLEY

Vice Chairman:

MR. E. STOREY

MR. R.T. ADDICOTT

MR. R. MEADE

MR. J.W.H. HANGER

MR. A.A.B. ROWE

(Vice Chairman of Council)

(ex-officio)

MR. C. SELLICK

(Deputy Vice-Chairman of
Council) (ex-officio)

MR. H.R. HOBBS

MR. G.O. LOCKYER

MR. B.L. SMITH

MR. A.M.P. LUSCOMBE

DR. W.R. THROWER

(Chairman of Council)

(ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1962

Medical Officer of Health:

R.H. WATSON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.)

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B., B.S.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F.A. MAILLÉ, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. EMMI, M.A.P.H.I.

B.F. HITCHCOCK, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1962

Health Department,
Albert Street,
BRIDGWATER.

Tel: Bridgwater 2689

August, 1963.

To:

The Chairman and Members of the
Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1962. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

As far as can be judged from a study of the vital statistics, the general health of the District was satisfactory during the year. The figures show little variation from those of the previous year and compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

Water shortage has again been an acute problem. The completion of the Hawkridge scheme obviously helped considerably to ameliorate the drought conditions of the summer of 1962, but nevertheless the fact remains that restrictions on the use of the domestic water supply were instituted towards the end of June and were in force for the remainder of the summer.

The importation of smallpox by immigrants from endemic areas and subsequent outbreaks of the disease in this country gave rise to general alarm and although this area was not affected, the Department was under considerable pressure to provide vaccination for all sorts of people who were not at risk. Fortunately restrictions on the supply of vaccine assisted us to adopt a definite policy and for the most part vaccination was provided only for those whose occupation might make them contacts of any cases which would arise, e.g., hospital staffs, ambulance drivers, Health Department staff etc., and to people having contact with infected areas, or who were travelling abroad. In spite of these restrictions a very considerable number of persons were vaccinated and there was much dislocation of routine work.

Slum clearance and the provision of satisfactory houses by the Council and by private enterprise has proceeded most satisfactorily.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, the other Chief Officers, and the Staff of the Health Department, for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
R.H. WATSON.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Area (acres) | 86,000 |
| Population (census 1961) | 21,985 |
| Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1962 | 22,500 |
| No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1962 | 6,990 |
| Rateable value on 31st December, 1962 | £194,847 |
| Sum represented by 1d rate on 31st December, 1962 | £ 784.1.7 |

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1962

Live Births.

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 202 | 175 | 377 |
| Illegitimate | 10 | 10 | 20 |
| | <u>212</u> | <u>185</u> | <u>397</u> |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 17.64 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | 5.4 |
| Stillbirths | 7 |
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 17.33 |
| Total live and stillbirths | 404 |
| Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age) | 1 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total | 2.52 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate | 2.65 |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate | nil |
| Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | nil |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | nil |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 17.33 |
| Maternal Mortality (including abortion) | nil |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births | nil |

Deaths.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Total number of deaths | 239 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | 10.62 |

Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 397 births (212 boys and 185 girls) in the Rural District during 1962, being 10 births less than in 1961. Of these births 20 were illegitimate. This is 5.4% of the total live births, as compared with 4.9% in 1961.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a comparability factor for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Rural District adjusted in this manner is increased from 17.64 to 18.16 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.0.

Birth rates for the Rural District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

| | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Crude Birth Rate | 17.41 | 17.21 | 18.59 | 18.54 | 17.64 |
| Standardised Birth Rate | 18.80 | 18.09 | 20.08 | 20.02 | 18.16 |
| England and Wales | 16.4 | 16.5 | 17.1 | 17.4 | 18.0 |

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District during 1962 was 155. Of these 11 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand 95 deaths of Rural District residents registered outside the District. (48 at Taunton hospitals and 47 elsewhere). The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 239 (131 males and 108 females). This was 17 less than in the previous year and gave a crude death rate of 10.62 per 1,000 of the population.

The crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General therefore supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with that of the country as a whole, or of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 10.41 per 1,000 of the population, and this is compared with 11.9 for England and Wales.

Death rates for the District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

| | 1958 | 1959 | 1960 | 1961 | 1962 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Crude Death Rate | 10.71 | 11.12 | 11.53 | 11.66 | 10.62 |
| Standardised Death Rate | 9.75 | 10.23 | 10.61 | 10.72 | 10.41 |
| England and Wales | 11.7 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 12.0 | 11.9 |

Of 239 deaths, 157 occurred in people over the age of 70 years. 51 occurred in people in the productive age groups 20 to 64 years, and the following table gives the details of deaths in this age group.

| | 20-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-59 | 60-64 | Total |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Malignant neoplasm of stomach | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus | | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Malignant neoplasm of breast | 1 | | | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Malignant neoplasm of uterus | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | | | | 2 | | 2 |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 5 |
| Coronary disease and angina | | | 1 | 7 | 2 | 10 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Other heart disease | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Other circulatory disease | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Pneumonia | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 5 |
| Other diseases of respiratory system | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| All other accidents | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Suicide | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| | 3 | 5 | 26 | 17 | | 51 |

Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Rural District residents from cancer was 49 (males 23, females 26), as compared with 44 in 1961. They constituted 20.5% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 49 cases.

| | Number of deaths | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|------|
| | Male | Female | Total | 1962 |
| Stomach | 6 | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| Lung, bronchus | 9 | - | 9 | 11 |
| Breast | - | 9 | 9 | - |
| Uterus | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other and unspecified organs | 8 | 12 | 20 | 25 |
| Total | 23 | 26 | 49 | 44 |

Cancer of the Lungs.

The ages at which death occurred in the last four years combined is detailed in the following table:-

| Year | Under 15 | 15/24 | 25/34 | 35/44 | 45/54 | 55/64 | Over 65 | Total |
|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1959 | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 |
| 1960 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| 1961 | | | | | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| 1962 | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| Total | | | | 2 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 38 |

Infantile Mortality.

1 infant under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 2.51 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 21.4.

The cause of death in this case of a child aged 7 months was Encephalitis.

Deaths from Heart Disease.

Of the 239 deaths, heart disease caused roughly 1 in every 3 (males 44, females 27). It represented 29% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 3.2 per 1,000 of the population.

Other Deaths.

9 deaths were due to accidents, of which 3 were road accidents.

| Cause of Death | M. | F. | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| All Causes | 131 | 108 | 239 |
| 1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system | - | - | - |
| 2. Other forms of tuberculosis | 2 | - | 2 |
| 3. Syphilitic disease | - | - | - |
| 4. Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| 5. Whooping cough | - | - | - |
| 6. Meningococcal infections | - | - | - |
| 7. Acute poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| 8. Measles | - | - | - |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | 2 | - | 2 |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm of stomach | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus | 9 | - | 9 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm of breast | - | 9 | 9 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm of uterus | - | 1 | 1 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 8 | 12 | 20 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | - | 1 | 1 |
| 16. Diabetes | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system | 16 | 16 | 32 |
| 18. Coronary disease and angina | 28 | 11 | 39 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease | - | 2 | 2 |
| 20. Other heart disease | 16 | 14 | 30 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | 12 | 11 | 23 |
| 22. Influenza | 1 | - | 1 |
| 23. Pneumonia | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | - | 2 | 2 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 1 | - | 1 |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | - | 1 | 1 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | 1 | - | 1 |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | - | - |
| 31. Congenital malformations | - | 2 | 2 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 9 | 7 | 16 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | 3 | - | 3 |
| 34. All other accidents | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 35. Suicide | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war | - | - | - |

Population.

The estimated population of the Rural District as at June 1962 was 22,500, which shows an increase of 550 on the previous year. The natural increase in the population, that is the excess of births over deaths, was 158, and therefore there was an increase in population of 392 due to immigration.

It is interesting to note the population changes which have taken place in recent years and the following table illustrates the trend during the past twelve years.

| Year | Population increase | Natural increase | Change due to emigration or immigration |
|------|---------------------|------------------|---|
| 1951 | 480 | 58 | + 422 |
| 1952 | - 610 | 82 | - 692 |
| 1953 | 840 | 119 | + 721 |
| 1954 | 160 | 46 | + 114 |
| 1955 | - 80 | 129 | - 209 |
| 1956 | 400 | 120 | + 280 |
| 1957 | - 610 | 83 | - 693 |
| 1958 | - 190 | 134 | - 324 |
| 1959 | 230 | 112 | + 118 |
| 1960 | 280 | 138 | + 142 |
| 1961 | 1,450 | 151 | + 1,299 |
| 1962 | 550 | 158 | 392 |

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable infectious diseases which were notified in the Rural District during 1962. The table is drawn up after making the necessary amendments to the original notifications by either the practitioners or the Medical Officer at the Isolation Hospital, owing to corrections in diagnosis.

| Disease | Cases notified | |
|--------------------|----------------|------|
| | 1962 | 1961 |
| Scarlet fever | 7 | 6 |
| Whooping cough | 15 | 33 |
| Measles | 62 | 516 |
| Dysentery | - | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 14 | 6 |
| Erysipelas | - | 1 |
| Acute encephalitis | - | 1 |
| Puerperal pyrexia | 2 | - |
| Rubella | 4 | 2 |
| Chicken pox | 1 | 2 |
| Gastro enteritis | - | 1 |
| Total | 105 | 580 |

Measles.

62 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

(a) Cases

No cases were notified.

(b) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections or three doses of Oral vaccine) and the number of persons who received reinforcements during 1962.

| Children born 1962 | | Children born 1943-61 | | Young persons born 1933-42 | | Persons under 40 years of age & Priority Groups | |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------|------|----------------------------|------|---|------|
| Salk | Oral | Salk | Oral | Salk | Oral | Salk | Oral |
| - | 14 | 135 | 165 | 28 | 22 | 43 | 41 |

| Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a third reinforcing injection | Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a fourth reinforcing injection | Number of persons (all groups) who rec'd a reinforcing dose of Oral vaccine following two Salk inj's. | Number of children of 5 yrs. but under 12 yrs. who rec'd a dose of Oral vaccine after three Salk inj's. |
|--|---|---|---|
| 494 | 86 | 235 | 139 |

Tuberculosis.

2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory new case of tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 11 respiratory and 2 non-respiratory cases in 1961.

Respiratory Non-respiratory

| | | |
|--|----|---|
| Number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31.12.62 | 58 | 7 |
| Number of new cases during the year | 2 | 1 |
| Number of deaths during the year | - | 2 |

The very low incidence of deaths due to tuberculosis was maintained and reflects the efficacy of modern treatment. All known cases are thoroughly investigated and all known close contacts are invited to attend the Chest Clinic for investigation.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of cases notified during the year.

| Age:- | Under 5 | 5/14 | 15/24 | 25/44 | 45/64 | 65 & over | Age unknown | Total |
|--------|---------|------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Male | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Female | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |

B.C.G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B.C.G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the Mid-Somerset Divisional Area. 512 accepted the offer and received preliminary skin test, the "Heaf Test", to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 421 of these gave negative results and were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography unit visited the Royal Ordnance Factory at Puriton, Wilts United Dairies and the village of Woolavington during July 1962. A total of 796 persons (630 male, 166 female) attended for examination.

6 abnormalities were detected. The abnormalities were varied, and included one of a tuberculous nature.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified.

Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified. During the year 289 children under the age of 5 years and 159 children between the ages of 5 - 15 years were immunised against diphtheria, giving a total of 448.

Tetanus Vaccination.

Tetanus vaccination is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December 1962, was as follows:-

| Children born in the years:- | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|-------|-------|-------|
| 1962 | 61 | 60 | 59 | 58 | 53-57 | 48-52 | Total |
| 46 | 176 | 48 | 12 | 4 | 35 | - | 321 |

Vaccination against Smallpox.

The number of recorded vaccinations was as follows:-

| Under 1 | | 1 | | 2 to 4 | | 5 to 15 | | 15 or over | | Totals | |
|---------|---|----|---|--------|----|---------|-----|------------|-----|--------|------|
| P | R | P | R | P | R | P | R | P | R | P | R |
| 326 | - | 82 | 7 | 206 | 40 | 661 | 256 | 812 | 971 | 2087 | 1274 |

P = Primary vaccination

R = Re-vaccination

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Laboratory at Musgrove Park Hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Hospitals.

The Ministry of Health Hospital Plan for England and Wales indicated that all hospital facilities other than a geriatric unit would be withdrawn from Bridgwater. The united protests of the many interested bodies both in and around the town produced results and it has now been intimated that a new maternity unit would be provided in Bridgwater and that outpatient facilities at Bridgwater General hospital would be improved and that a casualty department would be retained. This is heartening news, but it is still very far short of what was at one time hoped for and the situation is one which will need to be watched carefully in the future.

Hospitals in the area are administered by the South Western Hospital Board, through the Bridgwater Area Management Committee.

The hospitals are:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Bridgwater General Hospital | 72 beds |
| Mary Stanley Nursing Home | 31 beds |
| Northgate Lodge | 60 beds |

Cases of infectious diseases needing hospital treatment, or isolation, are admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

No Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics are held in the area, supervision being conducted by General Practitioners and Midwives. A number of expectant mothers attend at the Clinic at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater, when blood samples are taken for determination of blood grouping, Rhesus Factor, etc.

Infant Welfare.

Infant Welfare Clinics, for which the County Council are responsible, are held at Ashcott, Cannington, Edington, Goathurst, East Huntspill, West Huntspill, Moorland, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Pawlett, Puriton, Spaxton, Westonzoyland and Woolevington.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 155 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of case :-

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Maternity | 27 |
| Old age and infirmity | 84 |
| Chronic sick | 14 |
| Post operation | 6 |
| Emergency illness | 15 |
| Tuberculosis | 2 |
| Other cases | 7 |

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.62 was as follows:-

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Full time | 1 |
| Part time | 26 |

Welfare of Old People.

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. in providing Meals on Wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is greatly appreciated by the old people. The scheme is at present operating in certain parts of the District, but it is hoped to extend the service wherever there is need.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Sewerage.

Re-sewering of the village of Cannington was commenced during the year and satisfactory progress has been made. By elimination of large quantities of storm water from the sewers this scheme will enable the existing sewage disposal system to function efficiently.

Preliminary work on the other sewerage schemes in the Council's phased programme for the provision of satisfactory sewage disposal systems in certain other parishes where the need is greatest has proceeded satisfactorily, and at the time of writing this report work has in fact commenced on the scheme to provide a sewage treatment plant at Chilton Polden.

Water Supplies.

Sampling of water supplies was continued and results generally were highly satisfactory. In those cases where results were not up to standard no special measures, apart from increasing chlorination, were necessary. An exception was the Goathurst private supply. Seven samples of this water were examined in the first half of the year and all but one gave excellent results. However, in July bacteriological tests showed that this water was heavily and seriously polluted. All consumers were immediately advised in writing to boil water used for human consumption, and to date this advice has not been withdrawn. Five further tests of this water carried out in the second half of the year indicated in all cases that faecal pollution of the water was continuing. Representatives of the Council have met with representatives of the consumers to consider the measures necessary to ensure a safe water supply for Goathurst village. It is however clear that it will be necessary to close this supply if it cannot be satisfactorily protected from pollution.

Results of bacteriological tests generally can be summarised as follows:-

| Supply | Number of examinations | Report | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | satisfactory | not satisfactory |
| Fiddington | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| Goathurst | 13 | 6 | 7 |
| Willoughby | 16 | 12 | 4 |
| Over Stowey | 12 | 12 | - |

Chemical analysis of Fiddington, Willoughby and Over Stowey supplies was continued as a matter of routine. Reports were as follows:-

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled: Fiddington Public Supply. From tap.

| | Parts per million |
|---|---|
| Physical Characters | Clear and bright. Hazen units less than 5 |
| Reaction | Neutral |
| pH | 7.0 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | 9.5 |
| Total Solids | 380.0 |
| Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3) | 255.0 |
| Carbonate Hardness | 255.0 |
| Noncarbonate Hardness | 70.0 |
| Total Hardness | 325.0 |
| Chloride (as Cl) | 20.0 |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N) | 0.032 |
| Albuminoid " | 0.022 |
| Nitrate " | 2.4 |
| Nitrite " | nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C. | 0.20 |
| Sediment | none |
| Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead | nil |

This water is fairly hard, the hardness being mainly temporary. It is of satisfactory chemical quality.

Report of Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled: Willoughby Public Supply. From tap.

| | Parts per million |
|---|---|
| Physical Characters | Clear and bright. Hazen units less than 5 |
| Reaction | Slightly alkaline |
| pH | 7.6 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | 2.5 |
| Total Solids | 245.0 |
| Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3) | 160.0 |
| Carbonate Hardness | 160.0 |
| Noncarbonate Hardness | 30.0 |
| Total Hardness | 190.0 |
| Chloride (as Cl) | 20.0 |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N) | 0.002 |
| Albuminoid " | 0.004 |
| Nitrate " | 1.8 |
| Nitrite " | nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C. | 0.05 |
| Sediment | none |
| Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead | nil |

This water is moderately hard in character most of which is temporary in nature. It contains very little organic impurity.

Report os Chemical Analysis of Sample of Water

Received on 12.6.62

Labelled Over Stowey Public Supply. From standpipe.

| | <u>Parts per million</u> |
|---|---|
| Physical Characters | Clear and bright. Hazen units less than 5 |
| Reaction | Very slightly alkaline |
| pH | 7.5 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | 1.5 |
| Total Solids | 80.0 |
| Total Alkalinity (as CaCO_3) | 45.0 |
| Carbonate Hardness | |
| Noncarbonate Hardness | |
| Total Hardness | 50.0 |
| Chloride (as Cl) | 16.0 |
| Ammonical Nitrogen (as N) | 0.002 |
| Albuminoid " | 0.018 |
| Nitrate " | nil |
| Nitrite | nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C. | 0.03 |
| Sediment | none |
| Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead | nil |

This is a soft water of satisfactory chemical quality.

Housing.

During 1962 the Local Authority erected 11 houses, compared with 14 in 1961. Private enterprise built 191 houses in 1962, compared with 127 in 1961. At the end of the year there were approximately 350 applicants for Council houses, compared with 400 at the end of the previous year.

At the time of writing this report, work has commenced on the task of complete redevelopment of the Woolavington Housing Estate. A good start has been made and the period for completion of this scheme has been reduced from five to two and a half years. This is particularly welcomed as the condition of many of the existing houses is causing concern.

The number of post-war houses built in the Rural District from 1st April 1945 to 31st December 1962, was as follows:-

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------|
| {a} | Erected by the Local Authority | 803 |
| (b) | Erected by Private Enterprise | 1,493 |

Improvement Grants.

Owners of many properties have been informed of the benefits of these grants and have been urged to bring their properties up to modern standards. The following table summarises the action taken:-

| Received | | Approved | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Applications | No. of Dwellings | Applications | No. of Dwellings |
| 34 | 42 | 34 | 42 |

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The records given in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report show the number of insanitary conditions dealt with.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my twenty-third Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of Chief Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors and female clerk. All the Public Health Inspectors hold the Meat and Food Inspectors Certificate in addition to the statutory qualification.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

The number of complaints investigated during the year was 124, a decrease of 8 on the previous year. In most cases nuisances were abated as a result of informal action and it was only found necessary to serve 6 Statutory Notices. On inspection a number of complaints were found to be not justified and no further action was taken in regard to them.

Of the nuisances found, 106 were abated during the year. The number of visits made in connection with nuisances was 325.

The completion during the last few years of sewage disposal schemes in the villages of West Huntspill, Pawlett, Westonzoyland and Puriton has made possible the connection of house drains to sewers where previously drainage disposal in many cases was to unsatisfactory cesspools or septic tanks. These tanks invariably had overflow drainage which discharged septic effluent either directly or indirectly into ditches thus giving rise to nuisance which was formerly impossible to prevent. The new sewerage systems have also made it possible to instal water-closets, baths, sinks and lavatory basins in houses which lacked these amenities due to the absence of main drainage. When sewer connections are made all possible steps are taken to ensure that surface water is excluded.

The construction of a new sewerage system in the village of Cannington was commenced during the year. The existing combined sewers are known to be in very bad condition and completion of the work will remedy the present unsatisfactory position.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES (Continued).

The introduction of a cesspool emptying service is under consideration by the Council and it was felt that a necessary preliminary was to obtain information in regard to existing cesspools and septic tanks. With this object in view a survey of the whole of the District was made in the Autumn, 1,721 visits being made for this purpose. It was found that there are approximately 2,531 cesspools and septic tanks in the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination are taken at monthly intervals from the four sources of supply controlled by the Council and are forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton for examination.

Samples are also taken before mains are again brought into use after the insertion of new valves or alterations to fittings, and before extensions to mains are brought into use.

A total of 77 visits was made in connection with water supply during the year.

HOUSING.

The total number of visits under the Housing Acts was 713, the number of separate houses inspected being 421.

As in previous years a considerable number of informal repair notices were sent to owners, and these were followed up where necessary with re-inspections and negotiations with property owners and their agents or builders to consider details of the required repairs.

It was generally found that although owners were prepared to carry out work to remedy minor defects there was considerable reluctance to incur heavy expenditure on more extensive repairs. The high cost of building work also remains a serious obstacle in the way of housing progress, and this is particularly so in the case of owner/occupiers with limited means and especially if they are of advanced age.

It is in cases of this type that the availability of improvement grant is a powerful factor in influencing a decision by owners as to whether they can afford to improve and modernise a house or whether they must restrict their expenditure to the carrying out of only essential repairs. In all cases full information and assistance in regard to improvement grants is given to property owners when considering repairs and it is usually possible to achieve a reasonably satisfactory result.

HOUSING (Continued)

During the year 117 houses were repaired and improved as a result of the service of informal notices.

7 houses were represented as unfit for habitation and incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost and 7 Demolition Orders and 2 Closing Orders were made by the Council. In 5 cases the Council agreed to accept undertakings to carry out approved works within a stipulated time and in one case an undertaking to use as a store was accepted. 23 houses subject to Demolition Orders were demolished during the year.

10 families were transferred during the year from condemned houses into Council houses.

184 visits were made during the year to 110 properties in regard to the reconditioning and alteration of existing houses and the installation of new sanitary fittings.

14 visits were made to houses in respect to which grants were made under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Acts.

93 visits were made in connection with applications for Improvement Grants, and 99 inspections of property were made to ascertain if conditions of grant were being fulfilled. In a number of cases it was found that dwellings were not being maintained to the standard required by the Act and in these cases the attention of owners was drawn to their obligations and they were requested to carry out such work as was considered to be necessary.

OVERCROWDING.

No new cases of overcrowding were discovered in dwellinghouses during the year, but three cases in caravans were dealt with, one case being abated by informal action.

9 visits were made in connection with overcrowding.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part 1 of the Factories Act, 1937:-

| | Number on Register | Number of written Notices | Occupiers Prosecute |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | 78 | 48 | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | | | |
| iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | | | |
| TOTAL | | 78 | 48 |
| | | | 1 |

The 48 visits were made in respect to 48 factories.

| | | No. of cases in which defects were found | Referred | | No. of cases in which prosecution were instituted |
|--|---|---|----------|----------|---|
| | | | To H.M. | By H.M. | |
| | | | Found | Remedied | |
| Want of cleanliness | | | | | |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | | | | | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | | | | | |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | | | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floor (S.6) | | | | | |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| a) Insufficient | | | | | |
| b) Unsuitable or defective | | | | | |
| c) Not separate for sexes | 4 | 5 | | | |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork). | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 4 | 5 | | | |

BAKEHOUSES.

15 visits were made to the 11 bakchouses in the District and where defects or unsatisfactory conditions were found informal notices served were duly complied with.

One bakhouse closed during the year.

SHOPS.

186 inspections of shops were carried out in respect to the 243 premises in the District.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The following improvements were carried out, generally as a result of informal action:-

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| W.Cs | 22 |
| Baths | 12 |
| Sinks | 8 |
| Drainage systems | 9 |
| Lavatory basins | 16 |
| Connections to sewer | 16 |
| Larders | 3 |
| Internal water supply | 1 |
| Urinal | 1 |
| Hot water supply | 1 |
| Chemical closet | 1 |

A number of other minor improvements were also carried out.

FOOD HYGIENE.

As in previous years a considerable amount of time has been spent on the inspection of premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations and 330 inspections have been made of the 297 premises in the District. The standard of hygiene in food premises continues to be good and of the deficiencies found most were of a minor nature. It is commonly found that store rooms and other food premises to which the public do not have free access are not maintained to the same high standard as shops. The importance of proper storage of food under hygienic conditions is being constantly brought to the notice of food traders.

The result of the informal action taken was that 62 deficiencies under the Food Hygiene Regulations were remedied during the year, and in addition the following improvements in facilities and equipment were carried out:-

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Refrigerators | 1 |
| Refrigerated Display Counters | 3 |
| Washbasins | 2 |
| Water Heater | 1 |
| Sinks | 2 |
| Sterilising sink | 1 |
| Food Stores | 2 |
| W.C. | 1 |
| Dish Washer | 1 |

FOOD HYGIENE (Continued)

The number and types of food premises in the District are as follows:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Licensed houses and Clubs | 70 |
| Bakchouses | 11 |
| Butchers | 12 |
| Slaughterhouses | 5 |
| Poultry Packers | 1 |
| Dairies | 11 |
| Cafes | 20 |
| Guest Houses | 2 |
| School Kitchens | 40 |
| Food Preparing premises | 37 |
| Food Shops | 88 |
| Fish and Chip Shop | 1 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 298 |

LICENSED PREMISES

75 inspections of licensed premises were carried out, and a number of improvements were brought about by informal action.

One licensed house was closed during the year.

MEAT AND FOODS.

Of the five slaughterhouses in the District only one is now used exclusively in connection with the retail trade of an individual butcher's business. One slaughterhouse is used for the slaughter of animals for a number of butchers in Somerset, and the remaining three are wholesale slaughterhouses operating on a large scale. Most of the meat produced at the wholesale slaughterhouses is sent to the London wholesale markets but a considerable quantity is also sent to Southampton, Bristol and Bath, whilst a comparatively small amount goes to local retail butchers.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year increased by nearly 50% over the previous year and as the maximum kill is at weekends it is quite impossible to inspect all the animals killed. Every effort has been made to inspect as much meat as possible, a considerable amount of this work having to be carried out outside normal working hours.

1,139 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat, and 36,505 carcasses were inspected, an increase of 11,704 over the previous year, and giving an average of 32 animals per visit. The numbers of the different kinds of animals inspected were as follows:-

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Beasts | 2,235 |
| Cows | 411 |
| Calves | 11,845 |
| Sheep | 19,065 |
| Pigs | 2,949 |

MEAT AND FOODS (Continued)

Approximately 11 tons of meat were condemned during the year, details of which are as follows:-

Beasts.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Carcasses and organs | 3 |
| Heads and tongues | 31 |
| Livers | 138 |
| Lungs | 37 |
| Hearts | 14 |
| Spleens | 3 |
| Diaphragms | 17 |
| Beef | 1,333 lbs. |

Cows.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Carcasses and organs | 17 |
| Heads and tongues | 3 |
| Livers | 128 |
| Lungs | 22 |
| Kidneys | 5 |
| Spleens | 3 |
| Hearts | 6 |
| Diaphragms | 3 |
| Beef | 2,631 lbs. |

Calves.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Carcasses and organs | 42 |
| Livers | 6 |
| Lungs | 5 |
| Kidneys | 32 |
| Plucks | 4 |
| Veal | 103 lbs. |

Sheep.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Carcasses and organs | 35 |
| Livers | 116 |
| Lungs | 8 |
| Plucks | 46 |
| Kidneys | 2 |
| Hearts | 2 |
| Mutton | 208 lbs. |

Pigs.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Carcasses and organs | 10 |
| Heads and tongues | 23 |
| Livers | 50 |
| Lungs | 20 |
| Kidneys | 3 |
| Plucks | 37 |
| Hearts | 10 |
| Pork | 165 lbs. |

Other foods.

2 tins Ham
4 lbs. rabbit livers.

MEAT AND FOODS (Continued)

Carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year:-

| | Cattle exc. cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number inspected | 2,235 | 411 | 11,845 | 19,065 | 2,949 | - |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis - whole carcasses condemned | 3 | 17 | 42 | 35 | 10 | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 235 | 188 | 55 | 188 | 130 | - |
| % of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci | 10.6 | 49.9 | .8 | 1.2 | 4.7 | - |
| Tuberculosis only - Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 3 | - | - | - | - | 18 |
| % of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | .13 | - | - | - | - | .61 |
| Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 16 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 16 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and total condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Condemned meat is normally disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs and fertilisers where it is processed and sterilised by steam under pressure.

PRESERVED FOODS.

There are 10 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled and preserved foods.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The number of retail purveyors of milk on the register is 8 and 11 visits were made for the inspection of dairies during the year.

ICE CREAM.

The number of premises registered for the storage and sale of ice cream at the end of the year was 97, and two premises were also registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Each of those manufacturers produced ice cream by the "cold mix" method, followed by boiling the product.

22 samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:-

19 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 1.
3 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 2.

A total of 41 visits were made in connection with the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream.

KNACKERS YARD.

The knackers yard at Dunball is being maintained in very good condition and was visited on 5 occasions during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

135 visits were made during the year in connection with moveable dwellings.

There are 23 camping sites in the district, all of which are small. In addition there are 40 caravans on individual sites.

The Council gave very serious consideration during the year to the problem of gypsy camps and attempts were made to find a suitable site which could be developed and operated under the direct or indirect control of the Council. It was considered that such a site would have to be located in the region of the Quantock Hills by reason of the fact that the gypsies are employed during the summer and autumn by produce merchants who carry on their activities mainly in that area. A number of sites were inspected but none could be found which was entirely free from objection.

A meeting with the produce merchants was held in the early Spring and as a result three camps were established for use during the summer months only.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Water Supply | 77 |
| Drainage | 83 |
| New Work | 122 |
| Nuisances | 325 |
| Refuse Disposal | 3 |
| Shops Acts | 186 |
| Factories | 48 |
| Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits | 44 |
| Housing (Slum Clearance) | 192 |
| Housing repairs | 262 |
| Improvement Grants | 218 |
| Housing (F.P.) Acts | 14 |
| Overcrowding | 9 |
| Miscellaneous Housing Visits | 18 |
| Moveable Dwellings | 135 |
| Infectious Diseases | 15 |
| Verminous Premises | 6 |
| Rodent Infestation | 11 |
| Meat Inspection | 1,139 |
| Food Shops | 111 |
| Bakehouses | 15 |
| School Kitchens | 35 |
| Other food preparing premises | 69 |
| Licensed Premises and Clubs | 75 |
| Dairies | 11 |
| Ice cream | 41 |
| Miscellaneous Food Visits | 32 |
| Milk Samples | 5 |
| Food Poisoning | 2 |
| Slaughterhouses | 14 |
| Knackers Yard | 5 |
| Waste Food Boiling Plants | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 17 |
| Septic Tank Survey | 1,721 |
| | |
| Total | 5,063 |
| | |

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

F. A. MAILE.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



